

Application No. 09/871,991  
Amendment Date June 28, 2004  
Reply to Office action of June 8, 2004

## Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 A robust method for image feature estimation comprising:

- a. receiving at least one learning image input;
- b. accumulating a weight image from the at least one learning image;
- c. processing the at least one learning image using the accumulated weight image to produce a weight image output wherein the weight image is derived from an intra-weight image mixed with an inter-weight image.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the mixing method is intra-weight image mixed with the inter-weight image uses a minimum operation.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the mixing method is intra-weight image mixed with the inter-weight image uses a simple average operation.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the mixing method is intra-weight image mixed with the inter-weight image uses a maximum operation.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 A robust method for image feature estimation comprising:

- a. receiving at least one learning image input;

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- b. accumulating a weight image from the at least one learning image;
- c. processing the at least one learning image using the accumulated weight image to produce a weight image output wherein the weight image is derived from mixing
  - a. i. an intra-deviation image;
  - b. ii. an intra-weight image;
  - c. iii. an inter-deviation image;
  - d. iv. an inter-weight image.

Claims 11-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 17 A robust method for image feature estimation comprising:

- a. receiving at least one image input;
- b. adjusting a weight image by iteration responsive to a cost function comprising
  - i. performing fitting using an adjusted weight image to generate a fitting result;
  - ii. determine cost function values from the fitting result;
  - iii. adjusting the weight image using cost function values;
  - iv. repeat steps i, ii, and iii until a stopping criteria is met wherein the stopping criteria is determined by the maximum allowable error.
- c. estimating using the adjusted weight image to produce a fitting result.

Claim 19 (canceled).